

ROCK PEOPLE ENTHUSED OVER OUTLOOK FOR EARLY DISCOVERY OF RICH OIL DEPOSIT

Shamrock, Tex., Nov. 2.—Wheeler county is undoubtedly one of the greatest undeveloped oil fields in the entire southwest if the opinions of a number of men, both local and distant, who have made a study of the question is believed.

Lay your ruler on a map of the United States. Have one end of it touching El Paso and the other the Pennsylvania oil fields; you will note that a line drawn parallel with the ruler thus laid will directly contact with the Indiana oil fields, the south-eastern oil fields, Bartlesville, Oklahoma and Wheeler county, Texas. All of the points mentioned, except Wheeler county, are proven oil fields rich in production.

Lay your ruler at practically right angles with the former line, with one end at Beaumont, Texas, the other at Florence, Colorado; the line thus made will contact directly with Corsicana, Petrolia, Electra and Wheeler county, Texas, all of them oil-producing centers with the exception of Wheeler county.

The two continental lines thus drawn will be found to intersect at Wheeler county.



WEIRD TALES TOLD DURING PIPE DREAMS IN SHANGHAI

Shanghai, China, Nov. 2.—Three men sat in the public garden which faces Whang-too creek and marks the end of the English Bund in Shanghai. One of them was a missionary whose station is in the interior of China. Another was an English engineer who had spent many years in India. The third was a Texan, recently arrived in China on a leisurely trip around the world. The three smoked in silence while the band played a piece of American ragtime and then the missionary broke the silence.

"I have lived out here for ten years," he said, "and the longer I live here the more mystified I am when I try to understand the workings of the Chinese mind when it decides judicial problems. We had a very interesting trial in my village only a few days ago and the result was very different from what one would expect in a western court."

Chow Ling, a tea merchant, who had recently progressed, decided that he could broaden his matrimonial relations and looked about for a No. 2 wife. He found a girl to his liking and after a good deal of dickerings with her mother they agreed on \$300 as the amount to be paid by him.

"After the money had been paid the girl's mother heard new reports of Chow's prosperity and decided she had not demanded the price as high as she could have received. The day before the time set for the wedding she hired a band of rowdies to waylay the marriage procession, and carry off the bride, and this program was executed."

The Rowdies Got Revenge.
"Chow Ling complained to the magistrate and soon the girl and her mother appeared in court. The magistrate heard all the evidence and then decided that the mother should pay the \$300 she had received to him in the way of a fine. So poor Chow Ling is without either his bride or his \$300, and besides that is not in very good standing with his first wife because of his plans to supplant her with a younger No. 2. The mother, who lost her \$300, refused to pay the rowdies so the next day they went to her house and broke up all the furniture."

The English engineer threw his cigar stump into the creek.

"That's a typical Chinese court verdict," he said, "but we must not think that these Oriental people are unprogressive. They are advancing all the time and sometimes they surprise you in the way they adapt western ideas or inventions."

A few months ago I was in Gwalior, India, when a couple of tigers had been terrifying the country. They had killed a large amount of livestock and had invaded some of the villages and killed a few natives."

"The usual preparations for an extensive tiger hunt were being made when one of the natives succeeded in trapping the two brutes in a trap he had built for the purpose. They went inside after the bait he had placed there, the door was swung to and automatically bolted. The tigers were inside, right enough, as anyone could know when he got in earshot of them, but the problem was how to get them out."

The Problem Solved.

"Everyone puzzled over this for a few days, while the tigers got hungrier and hungrier, and it became increasingly dangerous to let them out. Then the very capable head shikari of the maharajah of Gwalior solved the problem."

"He bought a lot of sticky flypaper and carpeted the approach to the hut with it, leaving the beasts no opportunity to escape except over the sticky substance. When these prepara-

tations were completed the door was swung open and all the natives retired to the highest trees to watch the developments.

The two tigers came rushing out and immediately found sheets of sticky fly paper clinging to their paws. In trying to get it off they plastered their eyes and noses with the same material and rolled over and over in their anger until they became completely enveloped in heavy sheets of paper. In this helpless condition the head shikari's men rushed in and tied them securely."

The Texan had listened to these stories with all the interest of a tourist who is new to the Orient.

"That beats any hunting story I ever heard of a cowpuncher tell," he said, "and we've got some pretty good prevaricators out near the border, too."

"But I guess you fellows have never had many man killers out this way so I am a kind of curiosity because I belong to that class."

Here he held up a big left hand, and against the light the missionary and engineer could see that the third finger was gone.

"I was down in San Antonio," continued the Texan, "in the early '90s, when things were a good deal more free and easy than they are now, that the town has gone into the winter resort business, and doesn't want to shock its profitable visitors. But at that time there were a good many places where you could go for a quiet little game of poker and feel perfectly safe because the police would look in every now and then to see if there was any fighting going on."

The Sharper Held Four Aces.

"Being in the cow business, I played poker, and one night I sat down in a game with a stranger to me, but a man who was suspected of being a little too smooth with the cards. He sat just opposite me and we hooked up occasionally in the early part of the game, with varying results."

"Finally I had cornered quite a collection of chips, when a hand was dealt me and I skinned back my cards to see four kings looking me in the face. Naturally I opened and this stranger raised me, then I raised a few times and finally each of us drew one card. The way we bet established a new record around there, and after a few futile efforts everyone else dropped out and left us in the game alone."

"I felt perfectly confident. I had seen a man next to the stranger discard an ace, so I knew he couldn't have me beat on four of a kind. Finally we didn't have anything left to bet, and when the show down came he laid down four aces, just topping my fours. I knew he had worked an old game, picking up his confederate's discarded ace, instead of the card dealt to him from the pack."

"The only thing I could do was to get out my artillery, and the stranger had the same impulse. The difference in results was that they buried the stranger the next day and the doctor trimmed off part of this finger."

"But the peculiar part about that shooting scrape was that when the witnesses came up in court the next day they all swore that only one shot had been fired and wouldn't believe otherwise until they were shown my missing finger and the empty shell in the stranger's gun."

"Did you ever have any trouble with the courts over the shooting?" asked the missionary.

"No," replied the Texan, "that was justifiable homicide."

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FIVE THOUSAND FOR TRIP OF TWO MILES

Paris, Nov. 2.—Who wants to make \$5,000 in eight hours, the American labor union man's working day. A Paris business man announces that he will give that amount to any person who will enter the catacombs at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, alone, and appear in the streets again at midnight, having emerged by a door other than that by which he entered. The only condition is that the winner shall carry no candle or other light. He will be permitted, however, to have a whistle.

The offer has been standing two weeks, but so far there has been no wild scramble for the prize. In fact, the first fortune seeker is yet to present himself.

The catacombs are one of the mysteries of Paris. The entrance is at the Barriere d'Enfer, or "Gate to Hell," not an inappropriate place to start such a journey, when one comes to think about it. Ninety spiral steps lead from the street to the depths. Tourist parties, directed by guides, emerge by another staircase, reached after a winding tramp of nearly two miles.

Passage Contains 6 Million Bodies.

The catacombs are a series of tunnels and compartments known to extend beneath the greater part of Paris south of the Seine river. The narrow passages are lined on either side, from the floor to the low ceiling, with human bones and skulls, representing, according to the last census, 6 million bodies. So underground Paris is about 4 million larger than above ground.

There is no opening through which

the sun's rays ever penetrate and no artificial lights except the candles carried by visitors. The catacombs are infested by rats. It is to frighten them that the winner of the \$5,000 prize will be allowed to blow a whistle.

Were Originally Quarries.

The catacombs date from the Roman period. The passages were worked originally as quarries. No shafts have been discovered and engineers are at a loss to comprehend how the tunnels were drilled or the product of the quarries were brought to the surface. The galleries were consecrated to their present use in 1766, when the ground of the Cemetery of the Innocents was taken for other uses and the bones were transferred. The bodies of thousands of victims of the September, 1879, massacre were heaped there also, and half a dozen cemeteries yielded their dead in the first forty years of the Nineteenth Century.

It is almost certain that the quarries originally extended beneath the river and under a great part of Paris on the other side, but fallen rocks blocking the tunnels prevent any tracing of the possible connections now. The main passages are crossed by innumerable intersections, the traversing of which, even with candles is extremely dangerous, owing to the presence of pits, some of them many feet deep. But there is that \$5,000. Who is the M. le Docteur Cook who will win it?

Joseph Medill Patterson's "Rebellion" is not to be that playwright's sole contribution to the novelties of the season. He and Hugh Ford, the stage director for Liebler & Co., are collaborators on "No Extradition," which is a dramatization of incidents in several of the late E. O. Henry's stories.

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MORGAN HOME FOR CONFEDERATE MUSEUM.

Lexington, Ky., Nov. 2.—When the historic old home of Gen. John H. Morgan, the famous Confederate cavalry leader, is put up for sale at public auction here on Saturday it is probable an effort will be made by the Daughters of the Confederacy to acquire the property and convert it into an historic museum for relics of the Confederacy. The property, which consists of an imposing brick and stone mansion with spacious grounds, occupies a conspicuous site in the downtown section and has long been one of the show places of the city. The place is to be sold to settle the estate of Mrs. Katherine G. Reid, a relative of General Morgan, who owned the property for many years.

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Woodhouse-Kruttchnitt Wedding.
New Orleans, La., Nov. 2.—Miss Rebecca de Mender Kruttchnitt, daughter of Julius Kruttchnitt, one of the heads of the Harriman railroad system, was married in this city this afternoon to Henry Clifford Woodhouse of Montreal. The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride's aunt, Mrs. Joseph P. Blair, and was attended only by relatives and a few intimate friends. Mr. and Mrs. Woodhouse will make a tour of the Orient, after which they will reside in Oregon.

Victor Morley is shortly to star under the direction of Harry Askin in "The Girl I Love."

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